Amendments to the Drawings

Figure 3 is amended to comply with the specification and Figure 2. On Figure 3, the arrow at the bottom that is labeled "11B TRANSFER" now terminates on the line below "SCP SYSTEM" instead of the line below "SWITCHING SYSTEM".

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending and rejected. Figure 3 is amended to correct an inconsistency with the specification. A new set of formal drawings including amended Figure 3 is enclosed. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-20.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,262,992 (Nelson). In claim 1, a switching system routes a call to a service platform. The service platform collects caller-entered information and transfers the caller-entered information to an SCP system. The SCP system transfers the caller-entered information "***to a first destination processor***." The SCP system processes a first routing code "***from the first destination processor***" to transfer a first routing instruction to the switching system. The switching system routes the call to the first destination in response to the first routing instruction.

The SCP system also transfers the caller-entered information "***to a second destination processor***." The SCP system processes a second routing code "***from the second destination processor***" to transfer a second routing instruction to the switching system. The switching system routes the call to the second destination in response to the second routing instruction.

Thus, the service platform collects information from the caller, and the SCP system ***transfers the caller-entered information to first and second destination processors that each return routing codes for the call.***

Nelson discloses a service platform 438 that collects information from the caller. The recent Office Action asserts that the Nelson signaling processor 112 transfers this caller-entered information to communication devices 108 and 110. The Office Action cites Nelson column 7, lines 44-50 to support an assertion. This portion of Nelson states:

> "Each of the communication devices 106, 108, and 110 comprises customer premises equipment, a call processing platform, a switch, or any other device capable of initiating, handling, or terminating a call, including a telephone, a computer, a facsimile machine, a private branch exchange, a service platform, or an enhanced platform that is capable of processing calls."

Clearly, the cited section of Nelson does **not** disclose that signaling processor 112 transfers the caller-entered information to communication devices 108 or 110. The interworking unit 114 transfers user communications (i.e. voice signals) from device 106 to devices 108 and 110, but these user communications ***are not caller-entered information collected by service platform 438***, and the interworking unit 114 is not an SCP system. The signaling processor 112 informs devices 108 and 110 of the connection that the user communications will arrive on, but this connection identification ***is not caller-entered information collected by service platform 438***.

The recent Office Action also asserts that Nelson discloses that signaling processor 112 processes routing codes from the communication devices 108 and 110 that received caller-entered information collected by service platform 438. The Office Action cites Nelson columns 8-9, lines 50-6; column 10, lines 20-33; columns 10-11, lines 48-9; and columns 22-23, lines 58-7 to support an assertion. These portions of Nelson state:

> The interworking unit 114 accepts user communications from, and transports user communications to, the first communication device 106, the second communication device 108, and the third communication device 110. Preferably, the interworking unit 114 is an ATM interworking multiplexer that interworks between a first communication device 106 that communicates user communications in a TDM format over a DS0 and either a second or third communication device 108 or 110 that communicates user communications in the ATM format over a SONET pipe or an SDH pipe. However, it will be appreciated that the communication devices 106, 108, and 110 may be either TDM or ATM devices, and interworking can be completed between any formats. One type of interworking unit that is compatible with the present system is discussed more fully below.
>
> The interworking unit 114 accepts control messages from, and sends control messages to, the signaling processor 112. The interworking unit 114 uses the information gained from the

signaling processor's control message to identify the required interworking assignment so that the user communications are converted between the format that is compatible with the first communication device 106 and the formats that are compatible with the second or third communication devices 108 and 110.

.... For example, the user communications may be transported from a first communication device 106 over a connection 124, through the interworking unit 114, and to a second communication device 108 over a connection 126. When a call trigger is detected by the interworking unit 114, the interworking unit transmits an interworking unit control message containing the call trigger data associated with the call trigger, such as a tone, to the signaling processor 112. If the signaling processor 112 determines that the call trigger is valid, the signaling processor may transmit a processor control message to the interworking unit 114 instructing the interworking unit to route the user communications to the third communication device 110 over a selected connection 128.

.... The signaling processor 112 processes the call signaling. The signaling processor 112 reads the call characteristics such as the routing label, including the origination point code (OPC), the destination point code (DPC), the circuit identification code (CIC), or the signaling link selection (SLS). Based on the processing of the call characteristics in the call signaling, the signaling processor 112 determines what action is to be taken. Presently, the signaling processor 112 determines which communication device 108 or 110 to which the call is to be transported and, when a service platform is the communication device 108 or 110, which interactive application or other processing option the service platform can provide. In addition, the signaling processor 112 determines if the

interworking unit 114 is to be configured to detect a call trigger and which subset of tones to process.

For example, based on the call signaling processing, the signaling processor 112 selects the connection 126 from the interworking unit 114 to the second communication device 108 for the user communications. The signaling processor 112 sends a processor control message to the interworking unit 114 designating the selected connection 126 and configuring the interworking unit to process a subset of tones as call triggers and to complete validation and screening. The signaling processor 112 also sends a processor control message to the selected second communication device 108 notifying the second communication device 108 that user communications will be transported to the second communication device over a selected connection 126.

.... FIG. 15 depicts an example of the exception table. The index is used as a pointer to enter the table. The carrier selection identification (ID) parameter indicates how the caller reached the network and is used for routing certain types of calls. The following are used for this field: spare or no indication, selected carrier identification code presubscribed and input by the calling party, selected carrier identification code presubscribed and not input by the calling party, selected carrier identification code presubscribed and no indication of input by the calling party, and selected carrier identification code not presubscribed and input by the calling party. The carrier identification (ID) indicates the network that the caller wants to use. This is used to route calls directly to the desired network. The called party number nature of address differentiates between 0+ calls, 1+ calls, test calls, and

international calls. For example, international calls might be routed to a pre-selected international carrier.

Clearly, these cited sections of Nelson do **not** disclose that signaling processor 112 processes routing codes ***from communication devices 108 and 110 that received caller-entered information collected by service platform 438***. The signaling processor 112 does process signaling to control routing, but the signaling is received from the originating caller device 106, but not from destination devices 108 or 110. (See Nelson, column 10, lines 40-47). The Office Action asserts that the 0 and 1 prefixes in mentioned the final paragraph above are the routing codes, but the 0 and 1 prefixes are included in the called number that is received in the signaling from the originating caller device 106, but not from destination devices 108 or 110. (See Nelson, column 10, lines 40-47). Although the signaling processor 112 may receive trigger information from destination devices 108 and 110 (through the interworking unit 114), the signaling processor 112 does not transfer the caller-entered information collected by service platform 438 to these destination devices 108 and 110.

The same reasoning applies to claims 2-20. Applicants submit that there are numerous additional reasons in support of patentability, but that such reasons are moot in light of the above remarks and are omitted in the interests of brevity. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-20.

SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

Michael J. Setter, Reg. No. 37,936
Setter Ollila LLC
Telephone: (303) 938-9999 ext. 13
Facsimile: (303) 938-9995

Correspondence address:

CUSTOMER NO. 28004

Attn: Harley R. Ball
6391 Sprint Parkway
Mailstop: KSOPHT0101-Z2100
Overland Park, KS 66251-2100